

Washington, DC - In an effort to ensure our local law enforcement agencies have adequate resources to fight the war on terror, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) along with fellow Democratic colleague Anthony Weiner (NY-9), attempted to introduce an amendment in the House Judiciary Committee to the USA Patriot Act Reauthorization bill today. The amendment would have increased funding for local law enforcement programs such as COPS. The COPS program was created in the 1990's under the Clinton Administration with the goal of putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets of America's communities. Congresswoman Sanchez and Congressman Weiner believe that their amendment was critical to the USA Patriot Act, but House Judiciary Republicans ruled against the amendment.

"Our first line of defense against terrorists and other violent crimes are our local law enforcement agencies. It is a terrible day when Judiciary Republicans won't support our local law enforcement officers in fighting the war against terror," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

"The COPS program has been cited as a key reason for the decrease in violent crime in America, and continues to help fight crime and terrorism in our nation's communities. The Sánchez-Weiner amendment recognizes the necessity to adequately fund and equip local agencies and first responders to ensure the safety of our homeland.

"Police officers are in the trenches everyday in the war on terror," continued Sánchez. "Making sure that they have the technology and the resources they need on the ground, especially in target areas like Los Angeles and New York, is key to ensure they can protect our homeland," concluded Sánchez.

This amendment to the Patriot Act would have developed new technologies to assist state and local law enforcement agencies to help them combat crime and terrorism more effectively. It would have also provided the necessary training for the law enforcement officers to utilize the technology effectively.